



2024 Report



Anne Colt Leitess
State's Attorney for Anne Arundel County

Always, for the people

Greetings



Greetings!

As I continue my second consecutive term as the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney, I reflect on the past year and the accomplishments of our Office and partners in local law enforcement in keeping the people of this great county safe.

In 2024, our county saw a significant reduction in violent crime compared to the previous year, with decreases in homicides, carjackings, contact and non-contact shootings, and rape. Anne Arundel County police investigated 10 murders in 2024, the lowest in over a decade.

Despite this decrease, our prosecutors maintained a heavy workload of serious criminal and traffic cases in 2024. Early in the year, MTA Light Rail Operator Tavon Smith was sentenced to 18 months for a fatal crash that took the life of Lamar Paterson, a highly touted football prospect, as he drove to high school. This prosecution and the investigation by Anne Arundel County police revealed a lapse in protocol amongst MTA Light Rail operators, which created a crucial safety issue. Through this tragic case, missteps were uncovered. It is my hope Lamar's death will result in correction and greater enforcement of rules that will in turn, keep our community members safe.

In this 2024 Report, we take a moment to highlight some of the memorable cases and contributions our Office made to the Anne Arundel County community.

I am honored for the opportunity to serve as the leader of an Office composed of a dynamic team of attorney's, victim witness advocates, case managers, paralegals and investigators who work tirelessly and with such dedication to victims of crime.

State's Attorney Anne Colt Leites

Light Rail operator sentenced in crash that killed St. Frances football player in 2022



Barry Simms f t e
Reporter



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(Left) State's Attorney Anne Colt Leiteess and family of Lamar Paterson answer questions following sentencing.

(Right) SA Leiteess shakes hands with Lamar Paterson's mother, Maxine Lloyd.

ANNAPOLIS, MD – MTA Light Rail Operator Tavon Smith was [sentenced](#) to 18 months for a fatal crash that took the life of highly touted football prospect Lamar Paterson as he drove to high school in February 2022, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leiteess announced.

"It is MTA protocol that Light Rail operators must stop and dwell at each station for 30 seconds before proceeding," Leiteess said. "It was determined the Defendant waited just a few seconds upon stopping at the previous station, so the safety gates didn't deploy in time to warn Lamar as he drove through the railway crossing at Maple Road in Linthicum. The Defendant also didn't heed the flashing cross warning indicator lights that notified him that the gates weren't down yet, and this combination led to the collision with Lamar's Honda. Had the Defendant followed the rules, this tragic death could have been prevented. The loss of a young man with a bright future is a tragedy for his family and his school community.

"This prosecution and the investigation by Anne Arundel County police revealed that MTA Light Rail operators may be disobeying protocol on this crucial safety issue because unless they stop for the required time at each station, the warning lights and gates simply do not have enough time to be deployed and warn motorists of an oncoming train. It is my hope that the story of Lamar's death will result in the enforcement of these rules, which are in place to keep our community members safe."



Our mission statement:

The Office of the State's Attorney is committed to justice by employing the highest ethical standards in vigorously prosecuting the guilty, protecting the innocent, and representing the interests of the State of Maryland in court.

Commitment to Justice: Office Honors



ASA Sean Fox

GELFMAN AWARD

ASA Sean Fox was named the 2024 recipient of the Victoria F. Gelfman Legal Excellence Award, which honors one rising Maryland ASA annually to advance prosecutorial excellence.

Those chosen for this award have demonstrated a firm commitment to continued service as a prosecutor, the highest ethical standards, outstanding leadership, and commitment to the community.



ASA Marot Williamson



ASA Fox received the Victoria F. Gelfman Legal Excellence Award at the Maryland State's Attorney's Conference in Ocean City, MD.

MARYLAND'S
TOP 100
WOMEN

ASA Marot Williamson was selected as one of The Daily Record's 2024 Maryland's Top Women honorees, recognizing high-achieving Maryland women who are making an impact through their leadership, community service and mentoring.

Commitment to Justice: Office Honors



J. Joseph Curran Public Service Award

Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh received the J. Joseph Curran Public Service Award from the Maryland Bar Foundation.

The award is presented annually to a government or public interest lawyer known for selflessly serving the public good and furthering goals of better government and societal standards.

State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess, Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh, and Deputy State's Attorney Jessica Daigle



Anne Arundel Bar Association

President's Award

Assistant State's Attorney Jason Steinhardt was honored with the Anne Arundel County Bar Association's President's Award.



Anne Arundel Bar Association President (2023-2024) Marla Zide and ASA Jason Steinhardt



The recipient of the President's Award is selected by the AABA president at the end of his or her term.

Commitment to Justice

Man Sentenced to 10 Years. Lifetime on Sex Offender Registry, for Possession of Child Pornography

An Annapolis man [received](#) an active 10 year prison sentence and was ordered to register for his lifetime on the Maryland Sex Offender Registry for possessing more than 1,000 files of child pornography.

Keith Lionel Brown, 65, pleaded guilty to 10 Counts of Possession of Child Pornography in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

"The number of files containing child pornography found on the defendant's device is abhorrent and an eye-opening reminder that sexual crimes against vulnerable children are pervasive in and outside of our community," said State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess.

Third-Time Felon Sentenced to 25 Years Without Parole for First-Degree Assault of Ex-Girlfriend

A Glen Burnie man who held his ex-girlfriend and their two children against their will over a two-week period was [sentenced](#) to 25 years in prison without the possibility of parole.

An Anne Arundel County Jury had found Juan Michael Pack, 40, guilty following a three-day trial.

"The victim has sought protective orders against the defendant because of this threatening behavior," Leitess said. "Despite those orders, he held the victim and their children for what must have been a very frightening and horrifying two-week period. I commend the victim for her bravery in not only finding a way to seek help, but for testifying at trial."

Man Sentenced to 15 Years in Fatal Drunk Driving Crash Outside Marley Station Mall

A Glen Burnie man was [sentenced](#) to 15 years in prison for driving while intoxicated, leading to a collision that left one man dead and others injured, including his 15-year-old nephew, outside Marley Station Mall.

In addition to prison time, Pedro Baires-Beltran, 36, was given five years of supervised probation.

"The defendant, who had a prior conviction and two pending DUIs, ignored all of the court-ordered conditions and once again drove intoxicated in the middle of the afternoon," Leitess said. "An innocent man lost his life... This sentence removes the defendant from our roads for many years."

Commitment to Justice

Woman Sentenced to 30 Years for Fatal Shooting of Severna Park Man in Targeted Attack

A 33-year-old woman, who fled to Florida after fatally shooting a Severna Park father in an Annapolis community, was [sentenced](#) to 30 years in prison.

Ronnish Harris, of no fixed address, was sentenced to 60 years with all but 30 years suspended, with the first five to be served without the possibility of parole.

"This was a targeted shooting in broad daylight that not only took a man's life but also put small children and civilians at risk as they scattered for safety," Leitess said. "The defendant thought she could escape several states away, but due to efforts of the Annapolis Police Department and our partners with the U.S. Marshals, she was located and brought to justice."

Jury Finds Man Guilty of Sexually Abusing Minor in their Glen Burnie Home

Following a three-day trial, an Anne Arundel County jury found a Glen Burnie man guilty of sexually abusing a household member for several months when the victim was just 8 years old.

After one day of deliberation, the jury found Leonel Esquivel-Grijalva, 36, [guilty](#) of thirteen counts. Upon the verdict Circuit Court Judge Alison Asti revoked his bond and he was taken into custody.

"The defendant intimidated a child in his household and subjected her to months of sexual assault and abuse, which did not stop until he moved out," Leitess said. "It took years for the victim, now a teenager, to gather the courage to come forward... I commend her for her bravery."

Hanover Karate Instructor Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for Sex Offenses Involving Two Minors

A 72-year-old karate instructor was [sentenced](#) to 15 years in prison for sex offenses involving two minor children.

Harry "Craig" Conaway was also ordered to serve a mandatory five years of supervised probation and may not return to his Hanover home, where he ran his dojo. He was further ordered to have no contact with the victims or other minor children. He will be supervised by COMET and placed on a lifetime sex offender registry.

"As an instructor of martial arts, the defendant was expected to instill confidence and teach self-defense. As it turned out, the students needed defense against their own teacher who groomed and engaged them in sexual acts," Leitess said.

Commitment to Justice

Severn Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Striking Three Pedestrians, Ramming SUV in Drunk Driving Rage

A Severn man was [sentenced](#) to 15 years in prison for striking three pedestrians with his vehicle and repeatedly ramming a parked SUV with two women inside after an altercation outside the Cancun Cantina.

In total, Adam Rey Wolford, 34, was sentenced to 75 years, with all but 15 suspended. He was ordered five years of supervised probation upon release.

“A bruised ego and intoxication led the defendant to use his vehicle as a weapon to target innocent victims whose lives were forever changed while simply trying to enjoy a summer evening with friends,” Leitess said. “This is more than a drunk driving case, and the sentenced ensures that he is held accountable.

Man Sentenced to 55 Years in Prison for Murder, Attempted Second-Degree Murder at Edgewater Bonfire

A Crownsville man was [sentenced](#) to 55 years in prison for the fatal and non-fatal shootings of two men following an [argument](#) at a construction company’s get-together.

In total, Wilber Oswaldo Nunez-Menendez, 28, was sentenced to 90 years with all but 55 years suspended, with the first 10 years to be served without the possibility of parole.

“This is yet another example of a verbal dispute escalating to gunfire, which claimed the life of a father and husband and critically injured another father and husband...” Leitess said. “The defendant fled the country in an effort to elude justice, but thanks to great efforts by law enforcement, and the surviving victim, the defendant will be held accountable for his crimes.”

Man Sentenced to 40 Years in Prison for Fatal Shooting of Stepson Over Parking Dispute

A 71-year-old man was [sentenced](#) to 40 years in prison for the February 2023 fatal shooting of his adult stepson following an argument over a parking spot at their Brooklyn home.

The Honorable Kathleen Vitale sentenced George Albert Summers to 40 years with the first five year to be served without the possibility of parole.

“This is sadly another case where a verbal dispute turned deadly because of easy access to a firearm, the opposite of what was needed in this heated situation,” Leitess said. “There is no excuse for a man to lose his life over something as trivial as a parking space, especially at the hands of his own stepfather. This sentence ensures the defendant will remain behind bars for the expected remainder of his life.”

Commitment to Justice

Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for First-Degree Murder of Mother at Tracy's Landing Home

An Anne Arundel County judge [sentenced](#) 26-year-old Andrew Beavers to Life in Prison for the first-degree murder of his mother, an accomplished cybersecurity executive, at their Tracy's Landing home.

Beavers had originally filed a Not Criminally Responsible Plea, claiming that he could not appreciate the criminality of his actions or control his contact due to a mental disorder.

"Despite having love and support, this defendant had assaulted his mother in the past and then ultimately ended her life," Leitess said. "His mother provided him with a place to live, a vehicle to drive, and only wanted the best for her son. This sentence holds him accountable for his actions and provides justice for Juanita Koilpillai's family and loved ones."

Man Sentenced to Four Years in Prison for Exposing Himself to Girls High School Track Team in Severna Park

A Glen Burnie man with a history of indecent exposures was [sentenced](#) to four years in prison for exposing himself to members of the Severna Park High School girls track team at an intersection.

Adam Sandow, 43, entered guilty pleas to all eight counts of Indecent Exposure. Upon release, he will be placed on five years of supervised probation, in which he is to have no contact with the victims of minors, and monitored by COMET.

"The defendant has a history of exposing himself to minors outside of schools and parks in our community and has been convicted of, and served time for these offenses," Leitess said. "He obviously learned nothing from these previous detainments and I am relieved he will serve a sentence at the Division of Correction.

Brooklyn Man Found Guilty of 2020 Murder in Annapolis Apartment Complex

Following a four-day trial, an Anne Arundel County jury found Jaden Crowner [guilty](#) of the murder of a 29-year-old man at an Annapolis apartment complex under the pretense of selling a smartphone to the victim.

Crowner, 20, was convicted of First-Degree Murder, Carrying a Firearm in Commission of a Crime of Violence, and other handgun offenses.

"Walters Elangwe was a hardworking man who flipped used smartphones for extra income. He was killed for no reason other than a desire by Crowner to test out his newly acquired handgun to rob the victim," Leitess said. "The defendant clearly has no regard for human life, and I am grateful the jury determined he was responsible for Mr. Elangwe's death.



Casey Davis and Beth Wilson, SAO



Sharon Jones, SAO and the
"Mayor of Shadyside" Mohan Grover



State's Atty Leitess and Anne Arundel
County Police Chief Amal E. Awad

Community Engagement: National Night Out 2024

The SAO participated in National Night Out, an annual community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer and more caring places to live. Members of the SAO were located throughout Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in six locations: Michael E. Busch Library, Bay Ridge Gardens, Kinder Farm Park, Crofton Country Club, Chesapeake Christian Fellowship, and 10th Avenue Park.



APD Captain Lamar Howard and State's
Attorney Leitess



Mary Beth White and Rachel Severance , SAO



Victim Witness Advocate Jennifer
Hincks and Future Crimefighter

Community Engagement

Summer Government Youth Academy – Local youth involved in the County Executive's Summer Youth Government Academy visited Circuit Court to learn about the legal system as one of several field trips to learn about county government. In her presentation, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitesse showed the many ways her office uses evidence to lead to convictions.



Bring Your Kid to Work Day – At 2024 Bring Your Kid to Work Day, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitesse taught our youth the important job her Office does on behalf of the community, and how DNA, phone records, and other clues can be crucial evidence of a crime. Here, she shows visiting youth a model used in a high-profile trial.



One Love Foundation – The SAO joined representatives from Anne Arundel County Crisis Response and the One Love Foundation for a round-robin with the Boys Lacrosse Team at Archbishop Spalding High School.

Rotating three sessions, the athletes learned how to stay safe online and on social media, what to do if they are concerned about a friend or themselves, and maintaining healthy relationships.

Community Engagement

Purple Light Nights – The SAO Victim Witness Services Team joined State's Attorney Leitess at Anne Arundel County's first Purple Light Nights Event in Annapolis to shine light on domestic violence in an effort to support survivors, raise awareness and advocate on this important issue.



Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet – Anne Arundel County Police Chief Amal Awad, State's Attorney Leitess, and Anne Arundel County Fire Chief Trisha Wolford at the Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Banquet.



Caring Canines – Members of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court's Caring Canines Program stopped by the SAO Office for a tour. The program allows facility and therapy dogs in court for child witnesses who are testifying or appearing in court. What a difference they make for our youngest witnesses!

Community Engagement: Prevention Through Education

Deputy State's Attorney Brian Marsh met with the Women's Group at Friendship Methodist Church to teach ways to identify senior fraud and safeguard information



By visiting every corner of our county to host educational seminars, State's Attorney Anne Colt Leites provides citizens with the skills they need to recognize potential criminal activity and avoid becoming a victim. These informative discussions cover everything from the serious consequences of drug abuse, fraudulent schemes that exploit senior citizens, and the dangers of online predators and cyberbullying.

If you are interested in having our Office speak to your organization, please click [HERE](#) to select a program and fill out the corresponding request form.



Senior Fraud Safety Presentation at Glen Forest Senior Apartments



Cyber Safety Presentation for middle school students at St. Mary's School in Annapolis

Community Engagement: Giving Back

American Heart Month

In honor of American Heart Month in February, employees of the State's Attorney's Office donated \$260 to the American Heart Association



Thanksgiving Turkeys

Through their generous donations, employees of the State's Attorney's Office contributed \$650 in assisting Sylvia Snowden and the Circuit Court Drug Court Program to continue the work of the late Michelle Ludlow for the 33rd Annual Free Thanksgiving Dinner, which benefits community members in need and supports We Care & Friends in Annapolis.

The donations assisted in the purchase of 50 turkeys for the event!

Angel Tree

In the spirit of giving, employees of the State's Attorney's Office and Criminal Clerk's Office, along with family and friends, fulfilled the wishes of 150 local children through Anne Arundel County's Christmas Angels program. It was an amazing feeling to load an entire box truck with gifts for those in need!





Community Engagement: National Crime Victims Week “How would YOU help?”

In honor of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, the Office of the State’s Attorney hosted an Awards Ceremony on April 24, 2024 in the Historic Courtroom in Annapolis. Those who helped victims of crime -from law enforcement to witnesses-were celebrated for their contribution to others.



Jessica Hernandez speaks about the loss of her husband, Steven Wilson, and importance of utilizing victim services



The ceremony was opened with a video presented by the Office for Victims of Crime



Anne Arundel County Sheriff Everett L. Sesker, SA Leitess, and Anne Arundel County Police Chief Amal Awad



SA Leitess and
Director of Victim-
Witness Services
Joan Stammnitz
present the Warren
B. Duckett Jr.
Memorial
Commitment to
Justice Award to
Rae Leonard,
Manager of
Abuse/Domestic
Violence/Sexual
Assault Programs for
Luminis Health

Community Engagement: National Crime Victims Week “How would YOU help?”

The 2024 theme honored those who, in a time of crisis and fear, managed to persevere and ultimately secure justice for themselves or others.



Three kayakers helped lead authorities to the arrest and conviction of Andrew Beavers, who murdered his mother in 2021



Jessica Hernandez, who lost her husband, Steven, to murder, hugs Victim-Witness Advocate Helen Pryal



ASA Katherine Anthony sings “For Good” from the Broadway Musical “Wicked”



Three victims of serial rapist Davon Ferguson were awarded with Outstanding Victim Advocacy Awards

Service to Anne Arundel County



Thank you for viewing our 2024 Report. You can contact the Office of the State's Attorney at: aacounty.org/sao

You can follow our Office on these sites:

